

FOUNDATION STONE 150th ANNIVERSARY  
BETHLEHEM CHURCH, ADELAIDE

25 JULY 2021

Soon after South Australia was proclaimed, Pastors Teichelmann and Schumann of the Dresden Mission Society conducted their first service in 1838 in the Congregational Chapel on the banks of the Torrens near the present Morphett St Bridge. In 1846 they, with H.E. Meyer and S.G. Close, called a meeting of Lutherans living in and around Adelaide, to discuss the establishment of a Lutheran congregation and the election of a pastor. This meeting organised "Trinity" congregation. The ups and downs of the next ten years are interesting in retrospect, but they had their troubles, which resulted in groups leaving the congregation.

Bethlehem congregation was formed on October 3, 1860, comprising Lutherans from Klemzig and remnants of the Trinity congregation. They worshipped first in a small slab church in Rundle St., then in a former Primitive Methodist church on Light Square.

The foundation stone for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Flinders Street, was laid on July 20, 1871.



A year later, the members of the congregation marched in solemn procession from the Light Square church for the dedication of the Bethlehem Church on June 23, 1872. The cost of the

church building, three thousand and two hundred pounds, was borne by some 25 families, among whom was the generous contributor Mr. J.W.A. Sudholz.

The 90th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone was commemorated with the dedication of new Sunday School rooms on 23 July 1961. Major renovations and extensions to the church were made this year, and a stone was laid to mark the occasion.



The congregation has continued to maintain and extend the Church and associated buildings, including the Martin Luther School and The Stables. Its historical importance is recognised by the City of Adelaide.

As was written in 1971 on the occasion of the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone: "We give thanks to God for having motivated our forefathers with the vision, faith and willingness to erect this stately Bethlehem church. May this continue to be the sanctuary where many Christians continue to say "O Lord, I love the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwells" (Psalm 26.8)."

Next year, in June 2022, we hope to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church.

TO  
THE GLORY OF GOD  
CENTENARY  
OF  
DEDICATION  
23<sup>RD.</sup> JUNE 1972